GEELONG CITY 'C' CITATIONS

Site Name: Residence Project File No: 1143

Address: 370 Ryrie Street Geelong 3220

Approx. Date: 1880c, 1917-18

Integrity: Moderate Significance Level: C (Local)

Photograph No: 03.20 Survey Date: March 2002



History

This site at 370 Ryrie Street, Geelong, is located on part of Allotment no.1, Section 66, of the Geelong Town Plan of 1881. The original owner of the land was T. Forster, who was granted the land in 1854 for 460 pounds, and it appears to have been in the hands of David McKenzie Barry for much of the time between the 1860s and 1890.

By 1915, the property was a large, brick two storey house of 8 rooms, with pantry, bathroom, cellar and stables. It was described in the Barwon Ward rate books at the time as being "old". It is certain that this house (addressed at the time as 372 Ryrie Street) was partly demolished in 1917-18 to make way for a new brick 6-roomed house (with stables). The new house was built for Isaac Chapman, gentleman. Some of the ground floor remained intact and the two bay windows on the east side of the original house were retained.

After brief periods of ownership by E.J. Pederson, W.V. Purnell and Walter Allen, a traveller in the mid 1920s, the house was in the possession of Frank Patrick Nelson Smith by 1930, but was acquired by the Western District Timber Company in the mid 1930s, before returning to Nelson Smith, a masseur or diathermist in c.1940. During the 1930s the house was converted into two flats, probably by the Timber Company in 1937. Smith

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owned the building from 1940 for over 10 years, before it was purchased by one of the tenants, clerk/agent, John Lawrence Sheridan and his wife, Mary Margaret, who had resided in one of the flats from the time they were established in 1937. In the early 1990s, the property was owned by Trevor Sydney and Shelley Sharman, and the house still belongs to the Sharman family today.

Description

The house at 370 Ryrie Street, Geelong, is set on a large, unusually irregular-shaped block for the area. The house has a modest front setback characterised by a brick pedestrian path, perimeter garden beds and grassed areas. There are also wide side setbacks. The front is bound by an early rendered brick fence with tapered rendered brick piers having concrete-cappings. There is also a round hollow steel rail and a steel gate. The fence and gate are approximately 1300 mm high.

The predominantly symmetrical, single storey, rendered brick, eclectic Victorian and interwar Bungalow styled house is characterised by a hipped roof form, together with a hipped verandah that projects towards the street frontage. The eclecticism of the design is found in the combination of Victorian forms and composition, with interwar constructional and other details. This is particularly evident in the roof of the verandah that follows the slope of the main hip. These roof forms are clad in introduced slate tiles.

Supporting the verandah are paired square timber columns which in turn are supported by tapered rendered brick piers with concrete cappings. These columns and piers are also typical of interwar design.

Under the verandah, the central doorway and flanking windows is reflective of Victorian design, but the timber framed boxed tripartite double hung windows have been introduced in 1917-18. The panelled timber door with timber framed sidelights has also been introduced in the location of the original doorway.

The narrow overhangs which are a feature of the eaves are also reflective of the Victorian design, but the tapered and rendered brick chimneys that are adorned with terra cotta pots are representative of the 1917-18 construction.

Another early feature of the Victorian era are the projecting timber framed double hung bay windows on the east facade.

Statement of Cultural Significance

The house at 370 Ryrie Street, Geelong, has significance for its associations with residential developments in Geelong between the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Built initially in the second half of the 19th century as a two storey Victorian dwelling, the house experienced major alterations in 1917-18 when it was transformed into the current single storey building. The house also has particular significance for its mix of Victorian and interwar Bungalow design traits.

The house at 370 Ryrie Street is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level. It demonstrates important and unusual design qualities of an eclectic Victorian and interwar Bungalow style, incorporating both original 19th century design traits and alterations of the interwar (1920s-1930s) period. These qualities include the hipped roof form, together with the hipped verandah that projects towards the street frontage. Other intact or appropriate qualities of the Victorian and interwar periods include the predominantly symmetrical composition, single storey height, slate roof cladding, paired square timber columns which in turn are supported by tapered rendered brick piers with concrete cappings, central doorway and flanking timber framed boxed tripartite double hung windows, narrow eaves,

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tapered and rendered brick chimneys with terra cotta pots, and the two projecting timber framed bay windows on the east facade. The rendered brick fence with tapered piers and round hollow steel rails also contribute to the architectural eclecticism of the place. The remnant 19th century parts of the house include the location of the front windows and door under the verandah, and the projecting bays at the side (to the east).

The house at 370 Ryrie Street is historically significant at a LOCAL level. It is associated with residential developments in Geelong in the second half of the 19th century and early 20th century. In particular, this house appears to have been originally built as a two storey Victorian dwelling in the second half of the 19th century for David McKenzie Barry. However, in 1917-18, it was partly demolished and transformed into an eclectic Victorian and interwar Bungalow styled house for Isaac Chapman.

Overall, the house at 370 Ryrie Street is of LOCAL significance.

References

Reports and Drainage Plans, Barwon Water profis system, 1917, 1925, 1929, 1937, 1939, 1987

Voters' Roll, Barwon Ward, 1992, Geelong Historical Records Centre.

Sands & McDougall's Directory of Geelong, 1972, Geelong Historical Records Centre.

Sands & McDougall's "Invicta" Geelong Directory, 1968, Geelong Historical Records Centre.

Geelong City Council Rate Books (Barwon Ward), 1915-1960, Geelong Historical Records Centre.

Town Plan of Geelong 1881, Geelong Historical Records Centre.

Land Title Search APP26966, Land Titles Office, Marland House, Bourke Street, Melbourne.

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